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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,563	08/07/2003	Carol A. Fredrickson	72167.000403	9857
21967	7590	09/21/2007	EXAMINER	
HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 1900 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 1200 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1109			WRIGHT, JAMES B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		3693	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		09/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/635,563	Applicant(s) FREDRICKSON ET AL.
	Examiner J. Bradley Wright	Art Unit 3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 21-50 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 21-50 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2007 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Replacement drawings were received on June 18, 2007. These drawings are acceptable, and the objections withdrawn.

Specification

2. In view of the amendments to the specification presented in the response filed on June 18, 2007, the objections to the specification are withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3. In view of the amendments to the claims presented in the response filed on June 18, 2007, the objections to the claims are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 21-23, 28-33, 36-38, 43-48 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kern (US Patent No. 5,349,170) in view of Copeland III, et al. (US Patent No. 5,784,610), Wagner, et al. (US Patent No. 5,424,938), and Baron (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0201735).

5. **Regarding claims 21 and 36**, Kern discloses a computer method and system for processing international and domestic collection items (Figure 1 and Abstract), the method comprising:

- receiving a plurality, of collection items and documents accompanying the collection items (Figure 1 and column 3, line 21 – column 4, line 28);
- sorting and indexing each received collection item in accordance with a predetermined collection item type (column 5, lines 6-25 and lines 41-45);
- scanning the collection item to create an image of the collection item (column 5, lines 26-38);
- determining if any machine-readable code exists on the collection item (column 5, line 26-60);
- if any machine-readable code is determined to exist on the collection item, reading that code by machine (column 5, line 26 – column 6, line 20);
- determining if the collection item needs to be endorsed, endorsing the collection item, if necessary and scanning the endorsed collection item to create an image of the endorsed collection item (column 5, line 26-60);
- scanning any documents accompanying the collection item to create an image for each accompanying document (column 5, line 26 – column 6, line 20);
- saving the scanned collection item, the scanned endorsed collection item, if any, the code readout, if any, and each scanned accompanying document in a database (column 4, lines 29-35, and column 5, line 61 – column 6, line 20);

- displaying a balance and distribution screen at a user display (item 50c in Figure 14; and column 15, line 38 – column 16, line 3); and
- distributing funds and balancing accounts of processed collection items (column 15, lines 38-53).

Kern also teaches that a transaction is constituted by the several documents associated with the transaction (column 4, line 17-28). However, Kern does not explicitly disclose saving the scanned items and data as a unit of work and designating each unit of work a searchable unique database index key, or retrieving a unit of work from the database and displaying selected images from the unit of work at a user display connected to a client.

Copeland, in an analogous art, discloses a system for processing, scanning and storing checks (Figure 2 and Abstract) including receiving information from one or more scanners and associating the collection item and any associated documents together as an image-based unit of work (column 5, lines 11-35 and column 10, lines 55-65) and designating each unit of work a searchable unique database index key (column 11, lines 63-67), for the purpose of making the optimum use of image technology capabilities and providing maximum ease of use (column 2, lines 59-62). Copeland further discloses a database to store the scanned and extracted information (column 7, line 61 – column 8, line 2) so as to be retrievable on a unit of work basis and displayed on a workstation display (column 14, lines 54-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kern to associate related scanned data as a unit of work designated by a unique identifier, and making the

data retrievable on a unit of work basis for display, in order to make optimum use of the image technology capabilities and provide maximum ease of use, as taught by Copeland.

Kern further discloses inputting and saving processing data to the client regarding the collection item (column 14, line 48 – column 16, line 3), including the amount of the collection item (column 15, lines 17-25). However, Kern does not explicitly disclose automatically filling processing data into a processing display relating to the collection item if the processing data were stored in the database, or inputting processing data including: the party to whom payment of the collection item will be made, the party that issued the collection item, and the method by which payment of the collection item is to be settled. Kern further does not explicitly disclose processing payment of collection items or a server configured to provide an interface with external systems.

Wagner, in an analogous art, discloses a method and apparatus for providing access to a plurality of payment networks (Figure 1 and Abstract) including accepting input from the user (Figures 3-10 and column 2, lines 40-53), and performing processing of the collection item in accordance with the user's input (column 2, lines 40-53) for the purpose of providing a display interface to initiate and complete monetary transfers using a variety of payment networks (column 2, lines 27-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kern process a collection item based on the user's input in order to enable the user to selectively process the collection item on a specified payment network.

Wagner further discloses automatically filling input fields with previously stored data (column 6, lines 1-18) for the purpose of expediting and facilitating the entry of repetitive data previously entered and stored. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kern to automatically populate input fields with stored information in order to expedite and facilitate the entry of such information.

Wagner also discloses generating a payment screen (Figures 3-10 and column 6, lines 1-18), the payment screen accepting input relating to (a) the party to whom payment is to be made, (b) the party that issued the collections item, (c) the amount of the payment, and (d) the method of payment (Figure 3), the payment screen providing means for the user to commit a payment so as to save data entered through the payment screen (column 7, lines 44-56). Wagner further discloses providing a network interface between the central computer and the external payment networks. (Figure 1 and column 3, line 59 – column 4, line 50).

Kern further does not explicitly disclose a server to create queues for storing data to be used during processing of the collection items and dynamically track and update the status of the queues, provide an interface with external systems, and access unit of work data stored in the database whereby the data from the database are available to the client and interface with external systems.

Baron discloses an image storage queue (Figure 3, paragraph 0032) including creating queues for storing data to be used during processing of the system (paragraph 0013), and dynamically tracking and updating status of the queues (paragraphs 0018 and 0025) for the purpose of efficiently managing the storage space available in the

Art Unit: 3693

memory storage unit (item 106 in Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kern to incorporate a queue for storing image data in order to better manage the available storage space in the database.

6. **Regarding claims 22-23 and 37-38,** the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. Wagner further discloses a method and apparatus including external interfaces for providing access to a plurality of payment networks, such as FEDWIRE, ACH, SWIFT or CHIPS, which includes a network interface to communicate with the payment networks (Figure 1 and column 3, line 59 – column 4, line 28) for the purpose of providing a display interface to initiate and complete monetary transfers using the variety of payment networks (column 2, lines 27-37) according to the particular method of payment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner to include external interfaces with FEDWIRE, CHIPS and SWIFT in order to enable the user to selectively process the collection item on a specified payment network, as taught by Wagner.

7. **Regarding claims 28 and 43,** the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. While Kern discloses the use of a high-speed document processor (item 32 in Figure 1, and column 5, lines 25-30), Kern does not explicitly disclose that the document processor includes a check

scanner. Copeland discloses a check scanner operable to read MICR information for scanning checks (item 37 in Figure 2B).

8. **Regarding claims 29 and 44**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. While Kern discloses scanning in documents associated with a transaction (column 5, line 26 – column 6, line 20), Kern does not explicitly disclose that the documents may be scanned with a flatbed scanner. The Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action mailed January 16, 2007 that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a flatbed scanner for the purpose of scanning images of documents. As Applicant failed to traverse this assertion in the subsequent response on June 18, 2007, it is found to be Admitted Prior Art (APA). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kern to use a flatbed scanner in order to scan and collect images of documents of a size not compatible with a standard check scanner, as taught by the APA.

9. **Regarding claims 30-31 and 45-46**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. Kern further discloses that packets of images stored in the storage and retrieval unit may include an identifying header identifying the data by MICR data or sequence number (column 6, lines 1-20).

10. **Regarding claims 32 and 47**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. As noted above, Kern further discloses inputting and saving processing data to the client regarding the collection item, such as routing number, check number, etc. (Figures 17-19, and column 14, line 48 – column 16, line 3).

11. **Regarding claims 33 and 48**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. Kern further discloses a balance and distribution module (item 50c in Figure 14) that effects payment and account balancing for the payment processed collection item (column 15, lines 38-53), the balance and distribution module being operable to cause the user interface module to generate a balance and distribution screen to allow the user to distribute funds and balance accounts of processed collection items and to allow the user to create deposit tickets (Figure 20 and column 15, line 54 – column 16, line 57).

12. **Regarding claims 35 and 50**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 21 and 36, respectively. Baron further teaches uploading information stored in the database to an archive after a predetermined period of time (paragraph 0027) for the purpose of ensuring adequate storage space in the memory storage unit for new images by archiving older data (paragraph 0015).

13. Claims 24-27, 34, 39-42 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kern, in view of Copeland, Wagner, and Baron, and in further view of the Admitted Prior Art (APA) in the Background section of the Application.

14. **Regarding claims 24-26 and 39-41**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 24 and 39, respectively. As noted above, Kern teaches sorting and indexing each received collection item in accordance with a predetermined collection item type (column 5, lines 6-25 and lines 41-45). However, Kern does not explicitly teach that the predetermined collection item type includes international collections item types and domestic collections item types.

The APA discloses that collection items are typically categorized (i.e. sorted) according to the various known types, such as incoming, outgoing, foreign, domestic, and/or "on-us" collection items, etc. (paragraph 03) for the purpose of determining the appropriate procedures to follow when processing the items (paragraph 04). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kern to sort collection items according to type in order to properly process the collection item, as taught by the APA.

15. **Regarding claims 27, 34, 42 and 49**, the combination of Kern, Copeland, Wagner and Baron teaches the limitation of claims 24 and 39, respectively. As noted above, Kern discloses scanning and storing the documents associated with transactions (column 4, lines 17-21 and column 5, line 26 – column 6, line 20). Additionally, as noted

above, Copeland discloses assigning data a searchable unique database index key (column 11, lines 63-67).

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments have been considered, and to the extent they address the newly presented claims, are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

17. In response to applicant's argument that Baron is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In particular, Applicant argues that Baron is non-analogous art because the reference involves digital cameras. However, the claimed invention is directed, in part, toward creating queues and archiving data, including digital images (see e.g. claims 1 and 34). Baron is directed to an image storage queue and the management and archival of stored digital images (see Title and Abstract). Given the similarities, it is the Examiner's position that Baron is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. The Examiner further notes that Copeland, which teaches a system for processing, scanning and storing checks, actually incorporates by reference

in the Background section a patent describing an information storage and retrieval system involving a digital camera (column 1, lines 44-53).

Conclusion

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

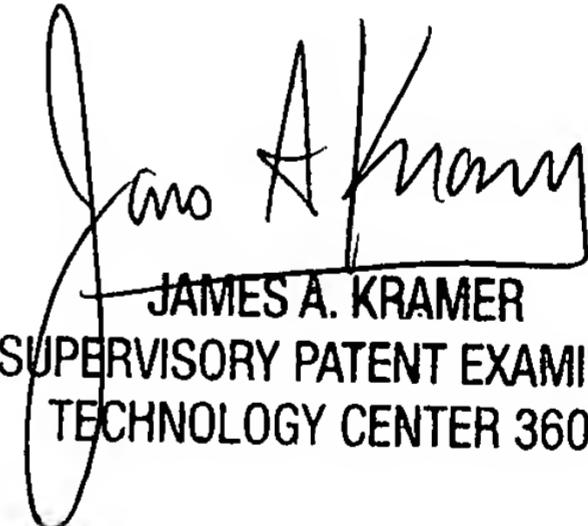
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bradley Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-5872. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jbw



9-12-07

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